EDITH SITWELL

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POPULAR SONG

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Edith Sitwell

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DESIGNS BY
EDWARD BAWDEN

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BY EDITH SITWELL

DRAWINGS BY EDWARD BAWDEN

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POPULAR SONG

Lily O'Grady,
Silly and shady,
Longing to be
A lazy lady,
Walked by the cupolas, gables in the
Lake's Georgian stables.
In a fairy tale like the heat intense
And the mist in the woods when across the fence
The children gathering strawberries
Were changed by the heat into negresses,
Though their fair hair
Shines there
Like gold-haired planets, Calliope, Io,
Pomona, Antiope, Echo and Clio,
Then Lily O'Grady,
Silly and shady,
Sauntered along like a
Lazy lady,
Beside the waves' haycocks her gown with tucks
Was of satin the colour of shining green ducks,
And her fol-de-rol
Parasol
Was a great gold sun o'er the haycocks shining,
But she was a negress black as the shade
That time on the brightest lady laid.
Then a satyr dog-haired as trunks of trees
Began to flatter, began to tease,

And she ran like the nymphs with golden foot
That trampled the strawberry, buttercup root
In the thick gold dew as bright as the mesh
Of dead Panōpe's golden flesh
Made from the music whence were born
Memphis and Thebes in the first hot morn,
—And ran, to wake
In the lake
Where the water-ripples seem hay to rake.
And Charlottine,
Adeline,
Round rose-bubbling Victorine
And the other fish
Express a wish
For mastic mantles and gowns with a swish,
And bright and slight as the posies
Of buttercups and of roses
And buds of the wild wood lilies
They chase her, as frisky as fillies.
The red retriever-haired satyr
Can whine and tease her and flatter,
But Lily O'Grady,
Silly and shady,
In the deep shade is a lazy lady
Now Pompey's dead, Homer's read,
Heliogabalus lost his head
And shade is on the brightest wing,
And dust forbids the bird to sing.

EDITH SITWELL

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